

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, July 9, 1992

Published Since 1877



First, Starkville, recognizes GAs

First Church, Starkville, held its GA recognition service May 17. Those receiving badges, shown left to right, are: front row, Danielle Kraker, Katie Dorris, Megan Springer, completing level two, and Caitlin Donohoe, completing level one; second row, Emily Cole, Diana Dunn, level two, and Heather Tomlinson, Amanda Kraker, Janet Browning, level three. Not

pictured are Hannah Glisson and Lisette Cabrera, level three; and Nicole Cabrera, level six. GA leaders are Gayle Kraker, Jennifer Goodgine, Leeta Stevens, Kay Wamble, Catherine Bates, Nan Donohoe, and Cookie Pennell. Director is Laura Cole. R. Raymond Lloyd is pastor.

Drummond warns: Orthodox theology alone will not move Baptists forward

INDIANAPOLIS — Orthodox theology alone will not move the Southern Baptist Convention ahead, Lewis A. Drummond cautioned in his convention sermon.

"In the final analysis, it is not how orthodox we are but whether we're walking in love," said Drummond, who recently became Billy Graham professor of evangelism and church growth at Beeson School of Divinity in Birmingham, Ala. Drummond recently retired as president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Truth is mightier than the sword, he said, and it freed the people of Eastern Europe as the Iron Curtain crumbled into the dust of history.

The Gospel of John says bare truth alone is not adequate for the Christian, Drummond noted. You cannot separate grace and gospel, he said.

"That grace is fully epitomized in Jesus Christ," Drummond said. "He did something so utterly magnificent and inscrutable on Calvary that only grace can adequately

describe it."

Drummond noted, "People matter to God as well as truth. We can speak unvarnished truth... but for truth to come alive, even God's truth, it must be permeated with grace."

Drummond warned that clinging to truth without grace can lead to formalism, scholasticism and even depersonalizing, legalistic Phariseism.

Holding to grace alone, he said, can result in a superficial, subjective, non-definable existentialism or humanistic rationalism.

"The world wants to know what we believe about Jesus Christ and the truth of God's Word but it also wants to know if we are like Jesus," Drummond said.

"We are to cling to the truth and be gracious to all people, regardless of who they are or what they believe.... People matter to God and they should matter to us."

God's truth also must be coupled with sanctification, Drummond said, defining it as "a holy, godly lifestyle."

He recalled a recent Gallup Poll

revealed the average Christian prays three minutes per day and the average pastor only seven minutes.

Also, Drummond reminded convention messengers that Jesus called love the greatest commandment upon which all the law hangs.

He warned, however, that love is often misunderstood. Some adopt the "bleeding heart" approach, "so existential that characteristics and truths of God seem to matter."

On the other hand, there are the "Bible-thumpers" who become legalistic and wield the Bible as a bludgeon.

"The Word of God is not a club, it is a sharp, two-edged sword. It cuts to the quick, but it heals."

"No excuse can be found to gloss over heresy," Drummond said, "but grace, holiness, freedom, and love also emanate from the very personhood of our Lord."

"That beautiful blend will drive us to our knees, thus bringing us into much desired unity, and could just precipitate the revival we Southern Baptists sorely need."

Student with epilepsy says "handi-capable"

WICHITA, Kan. (BP) — "I do not consider myself handicapped. I am handi-capable. Don't let any handicap hold you back," said Ralph L. Leonard, Seminary Extension student.

Those are the words of a 37-year-old man with epilepsy. Since the age of 8 Leonard has had epilepsy. After graduating from high school he began working at Kansas State Grain Inspection in Wichita, where he has worked 20 years.

Eight years ago Leonard wanted to further his education. He never attended college and, without a degree, the doors seemed closed.

Fortunately one day he saw a Seminary Extension advertisement with a picture of a teacher he knew. The advertisement was for a class on the Gospels in the New Testament. Leonard had been wanting to study the Bible and theological subjects with the goal of becoming a minister.

Leonard called Seminary Extension and found it provided theological education and ministry training to those who cannot or for any reason do not attend a regular institution of learning. He also learned he could study to receive a diploma or a certificate

in his chosen area of interest.

He also learned Seminary Extension offered correspondence courses and even had centers in every state where classes were held. As it turned out, there was a center in his town. Thus began his studies with Seminary Extension.

After taking 32 classes through Seminary Extension, Leonard is a minister and has been licensed by his church.

"Taking Seminary Extension classes has enriched me spiritually. I have grown closer in my walk with the Lord," Leonard said as he reflected upon the past eight years.

Seminary Extension has more than 87 courses available from "How to Understand the Bible" to "Systematic Theology." In addition, it has courses in several languages such as Spanish, Korean, Laotian, Cambodian, and one course in modern Greek. It is open to people from all denominations. At one of its centers in Maryland, 95% of the students who take courses are from other denominations.

For further information contact Seminary Extension at (615) 242-2453.

USA Today says Christian faith is part of each candidate's life

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — What do George Bush, Bill Clinton, and Ross Perot have in common? According to a cover story in the June 15 USA Today, all are church-going Christians.

Most Sundays find Bush in one of four churches: First Congregational in Kennebunkport, the summer-only St. Anne's in Kennebunkport, St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, or St. John's Episcopal Church across from the White House.

John Harper, rector at St. John's, described Bush as "devout. He grew up in an American church-going family, and I think worship is important to him." Claude Payne of St. Martin's says of Bush, "His faith is not a veneer. It's...very deep."

In a 1988 book about his life, Bush acknowledged that he resists public discussion of his faith, but said it sustained him when his 3-year-old daughter Robin died of leukemia in 1953. "In a moment like that, all you have is God," he wrote.

Bill Clinton made a public profession of faith at age 9, and is a member of Little Rock's Emmanuel Baptist Church, where he regularly sings in the choir.

Hillary Clinton was raised in a Methodist family, and attends Little Rock's First United Methodist Church. Bill Clinton says that worshipping in different churches makes the couple's "spiritual life richer," and believes voters want candidates with religious convictions, "as long as they're not paraded around in some hypocritical or self-serving way."

Biographies of Ross Perot make little mention of religion, but he and his wife Margot belong to Highland Park Presbyterian Church, a wealthy, conservative congregation in Dallas.

In an interview with TV Guide, Perot said he believes religion is a private matter. "I'm not one of those guys who opens a meeting with prayer," he said. "When I run into a guy like that, I just button my wallet because he's gonna pick it for the Lord."

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Marks of integrity

One purpose of the Holy Spirit is to impart the holiness of God to us. This will make a person more Christ-like and exhibit the fruit of the Holy Spirit. This is God's expectation for the believer. The godly man is like a tree planted by a river: he yields his fruit in its season, the leaf does not wither, and in whatever he does, he prospers.

In Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is

Love, joy, peace,

Patience, kindness, goodness

Faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Billy Graham calls these three clusters: (1) Love, joy, and peace speak of our Godward relationship; (2) patience, kindness, and goodness are in our relationships toward other people; and (3) faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are the inward relationships or the attitudes and actions of the inner self.

The "imprimatur" of the Christian is love. It's the recognizable sign that you are a disciple, "if you have love for one another." This sign is the springboard for all the others. Note that it is the "fruit," not "fruits" of the Spirit.

There is felt a tinge of sadness when you see and hear the words and actions of Christians cast in certain situations. Sometimes pagans exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in better light than do believers.

Charles Allen expressed it well:

"in one's disdain of sin, one can be harsh and unkind toward a sinner. Some people seem to have such a passion for righteousness that they have no room left for compassion for those who have failed." Kindness really measures the stature of a man. It was Jesus who wept over the city.

Robert Browning captured a bit of this:

"Twas a thief said the last kind word to Christ:

Christ took the kindness and forgave the theft."

Speeches, motions, and actions at conventions, associations, or even in church business meetings ought to be conducted in our most gracious manners though we may disagree with the actions.

Being unkind can tarnish the testimony of a believer; lack of gentleness can cast a shadow that lingers. You may be arrested for marching in an anti-abortion group or civil disobedience — let it be with class, not a nasty spirit.

Christianity deserves a better show window. "Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?" (James 3:10-11).

One can be the epitome of "How to win friends" in public and a grouchy bear at home. Perhaps it is in the home where we need the fruit

of the Spirit to prevail.

Intemperance or self-control is more regal than the purple robe of a king. How many have brought embarrassment to the Kingdom by the words used to a waitress or a clerk?

Once I purchased a defective gadget that broke within a few months. Snatching it up, I headed for the store. My wife said (in effect), "Control yourself; remember who you are and Whose you are." She reminded me of an old preacher's words: "We had rather God spoke any other way, other than through one's wife." Anyhow, I rushed to the store where they were real nice and offered to replace the gadget. This made my anger even worse. I never got to deliver the flaming words I had stored. Better it is to travel a mile with a kind sinner than take a journey with a sour saint.

Self-control is taking charge of one's body, appetite, lust, desires, and bringing them into subjection of the Spirit. There are many ways to "know them by their fruit" but the real test is the fruit of the spirit. It has the ring of eternity, the beauty of a baby, and the marks of integrity. Long after the bankers cease to count our money, our automobiles are rusted away, our houses and lands are returned to their true Owner, the fruit of the Spirit will still be paying dividends.

Sunday School Board offers six-month study for newlyweds

NASHVILLE — A 26-session Bible study for newlyweds that can help create new Sunday School units, serve as an evangelistic tool or coordinate with pre-marital counseling will be available from the Baptist Sunday School Board for use in October.

The topical study can be used for an alternative Sunday morning Bible study or as a weekday study, explained David Apple, adult consultant in the board's Sunday School division.

The material is being developed on a fast-track approach in response to a need expressed by several churches.

The decision to develop the material was made in December 1991, with writers enlisted in January 1992. Writers completed copy in April for editing by June in time to be printed and available for shipping in September, Apple said.

This material will test the board's ability to produce material on a fast schedule and will be evaluated as other similar studies are considered, Apple said.

If the study is used on Sunday morning, Apple recommends that a newlywed class be created for the six-month study. "That group could stay together as a class and then move into the regular dated curriculum," Apple said.

The point is to involve newlyweds in Bible study. This may be an opportunity to discover other newlyweds who are not attending church. It gives the church an option for this target group," he said.

He pointed out that it is not designed to take newlyweds out of their existing Sunday Bible study class if they already are attending.

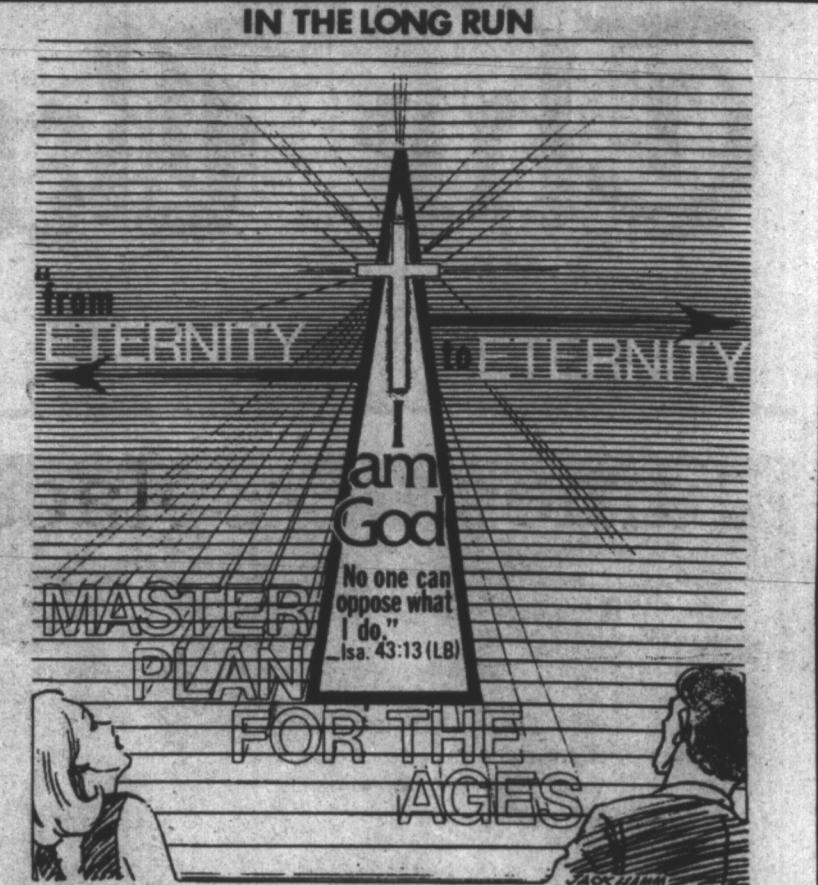
The study is divided into five units dealing with subjects such

as understanding the biblical foundation of marriage, communication, financial management, conflicts, and spiritual development.

The study also could be used by couples as a self-guided study, Apple said.

Pastors may consider using the study along with premarital counseling. It could be a resource to accompany counseling materials such as "Counsel for the Nearly and Newly Married" couples' guide and leaders' guide recently developed by the board's family ministry department.

Because the newlywed Bible study material was developed on a fast track, it will not be listed on the October order form, Apple said. The material will, however, be available in book stores and from the customer service center.



Foreign Mission Board's search for new president

Committee Chairman Joel Gregory, First Church, Dallas, has received names of 31 individuals recommended to be the new FMB president. Other recommendations would be welcomed, according to the Dallas pastor. "No choice has been made, not even a preliminary choice. All 15 people on this committee have no agenda," he declared. Gregory implied it would be early fall before any recommendations would be forthcoming.

In the profile of a new president, he is to have an "unquestioned commitment to foreign missions and a broad knowledge and understanding of missions... preferably including missionary service." Keith Parks, outgoing president, said missionary experience is essential for the board's president to understand the complex context and needs of missions today. The present board has a way of ignoring Park's suggestions and it's not likely to follow this one.

Among those reported to be on the list of consideration: Tom Eliff, pastor in Del City, Okla., missionary in Africa for one term; John Bisagno, pastor of First, Houston, has made numerous short-term mission trips, and is the pastor of Paul Pressler, recently elected to the FMB trustee board; and Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, and former SBC president.

Jim Henry, pastor at First, Orlando, surfaced as a front runner along with Don Kammerdiener of the FMB staff. Add about 25 others to this list and the new president will probably be there. Joel Gregory, search committee chairman, cannot be ruled out. Missionary experience, while critical in the eyes of

missionaries, is not ranked quite as high with the FMB board members.

The first consideration will likely be whether he has been with the fundamental/conservative group. This has been an important factor in filling most offices in the last few years. This is not intended to imply that such a man will bring doom to the FMB. The mission work of Southern Baptists is far more durable than that. It has weathered many storms and will weather the present conflict.

The men listed as potentials are able, capable in most areas, and can build a strong case for their love for missions. In their parameters the search committee will prayerfully seek out the best person. They need the prayers of all of us.

There is one element here that is not found in selecting other SBC leaders. There are 4,000 missionaries overseas interested in (but with little representation on the board) and vitally concerned about the election of a new leader. He may well be their "boss" for the remainder of their missionary careers. Experienced missionary, pastor, or layperson, they will have to work with him.

The new president will learn quickly and SBC foreign missions work will continue. Missionaries need to hear a sure trumpet, not the uncertain sounds arising from various quarters. They need the affirmation of their home board, home denomination, and home churches.

Would we could leave out the denominational struggle, but apparently that is not to be. Whoever is selected we need to work with, pray for, and seek a transition where damage is minimal. — GH

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FMB trustees select Sam James to replace Ballenger

EL PASO, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees unanimously elected Samuel M. James, a 30-year missions veteran, to lead Southern Baptist work in Europe and laid the groundwork for a September dialogue with European Baptist leaders.

Trustees, meeting June 22-24 in El Paso, Texas, also voted to discuss issues of concern between the board and the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, and announced a retirement package for board President R. Keith Parks.

In other action, trustees voted to begin mission work in Aruba, an island off the coast of northwest



Samuel M. James

Fisher is elected executive secretary of Mississippi Baptist Foundation

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Edward Harold (Hal) Fisher Jr., of Jackson, was elected executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation June 25 during a called meeting of the organization's board of trustees at the Baptist Building in Jackson. The Blue Mountain native will replace Aubrey Boone, who will retire on July 15 of this year.

The Foundation was organized in 1943 to serve the causes of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention by accepting and administering bequests and other gifts for those causes, which include numerous Baptist institutions, agencies, and other organizations and activities. The Foundation's governing board of trustees is separate and independent of any other Baptist board or organization. Foundation assets currently total \$22 million.

Fisher serves at present as

Venezuela in the Netherlands Antilles, and appointed 32 missionaries and reappointed two others.

They also passed a resolution congratulating Southern Baptists and Foreign Mission Board staff and missionaries for a job well done in reaching new levels in giving to the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and in overseas baptisms and church starts. The resolution noted that trustees "are grieved that there is a perception that 1991 was less than a banner year for Southern Baptists and the Foreign Mission Board."

James, 60, area director for East Asia since 1985, was elected as vice-president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. He succeeds Isam Ballenger, who took early retirement, along with Europe area director Keith Parker, in protest of what they termed the trustees' "global agenda" to enforce theological orthodoxy overseas.

Ballenger's and Parker's action followed a controversial decision by trustees to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Trustees voted unanimously at the June meeting to "affirm that we have only one agenda and that is evangelism that results in churches." They said they "do not have a global agenda to export any perceived controversy to any Baptist body with which we partnership."

Trustees also "unreservedly and unequivocally" expressed agreement with the Dorfweil Statement adopted by European Baptists last January in the wake of the defunding of the Ruschlikon seminary. The statement, voted at a meeting in Dorfweil, Germany, said future cooperation will call for mutual respect, spiritual freedom, moral integrity, genuine consultation, and reciprocal sharing between Southern Baptists and European Baptists.

The motion on Woman's Missionary Union reaffirmed the Foreign Mission Board's "deep appreciation for its long-time relationship with Woman's Missionary Union and for the enormous support this relationship has brought to the cause of foreign missions."

The motion specified that the dialogue "include a discussion of the Foreign Mission Board's concern that the (historical) support not be diluted by relationships between WMU and a non-Southern Baptist or quasi-Southern Baptist missions agency."

On the subject of relationships with overseas Baptist bodies, trustees affirmed "the right of all, repeat all, national bodies to work with other missions entities without jeopardizing their partnership with the Foreign Mission Board." That would include the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which has already (See FMB on page 8)

director of development for Mississippi College, Clinton. Prior to that, he held the position of direc-

tor of gift planning at Belhaven College in Jackson. He has also (See FISHER on page 9)



Hal Fisher (left) is congratulated on his election as executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation by Bill Baker, pastor of First Church, Clinton and president of the Foundation's board of trustees.

Dickens begins duties at the Baptist Record

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Teresa Dickens, formerly news writer for Word and Way, the journal of the Missouri Baptist Convention, has joined the staff of the Baptist Record effective July 1 as news writer/advertising coordinator.

Dickens, 32, will coordinate the advertising program at the newspaper, while contributing news articles and features, according to Editor Guy Henderson. She replaces Evelyn Keyes, who retired June 1 after 26 years of service.

The Saucier native attended William Carey College in Hattiesburg and graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg with a bachelor of science in journalism degree. In addition, she holds a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dickens has also served as a Home Mission Board missionary in Ohio, as a graduate assistant in the journalism department at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, and as copy editor and staff writer at the Hattiesburg American in Hattiesburg. In addition, she has worked as a secretary at Southwestern Seminary, and a high school teacher in Orange Grove, Mississippi.

While in Missouri, Dickens attended Liberty Road Chapel in Taos, where she taught Sunday School and directed both Sunday School and WMU activities. She also served as president of the Ster-

ling Chapter of American Business Women's Association and was named the chapter's Woman of the Year in 1992.

"Teresa's education and background in both journalism and denominational work provide us with tremendous depth. I am delighted that she is here, and I look forward to the many contributions she will make to our newspaper," Henderson said.

"This really feels like home," Dickens said. "I am closer to my family here, and that is very important to me. I am happy to be back in Mississippi and working for one of the best newspapers in the Southern Baptist Convention," she added.



Teresa Dickens

June CP, designated gifts up

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Cooperative Program total received by the Executive Committee for June rebounded with a 28.83% increase over the same month a year ago, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president/treasurer.

The June 1992 total was \$12,789,989 compared to June 1991 of \$9,927,427. Designated gifts for the month were even higher, percentage-wise, over the same period a year ago: \$13,127,622 compared to \$9,829,844 or a 33.55% increase.

New writers chosen for Sunday School lesson commentaries

Three new Sunday School commentary writers will begin their work in this issue of the Baptist Record. The three will write through December of this year.

Margaret Howard Rogers will author the commentaries on the Uniform series. She is a member of the Salem Church near Collins and teaches Sunday School there.

"She spends more time preparing to teach a lesson than many preachers spend preparing a sermon," was the comment of one pastor.

Her father, J. Reese Rogers, was pastor at Salem (Covington County) and Bunker Hill (Marion County). She was formerly married to George Rogers (now deceased), and has three grown children.

David Raddin, pastor of First Church, Summit, will write the Bible Book commentaries. He is the son of Roy Raddin, director of missions in Washington Association.

David is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary and is married to the former Debbie Bradford of Newhebron. They have two children.

Milton Burd is minister of education at First Church, Cleveland. He will write commentaries on the Life and Work series. Burd currently teaches the Sunday School lesson on television.

He is a graduate of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and is married to the former Jerry Herman of that city. They have two children.

Thursday, July 9, 1992

Mississippians make steady strides in Mongolian missions

By Martha Taylor

(Ed. Note: Martha Taylor, missionary to Mongolia, grew up in Temple Church in Hattiesburg. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George B. Taylor of Hattiesburg. There are now seven Southern Baptists working in Mongolia, with the addition of fellow Mississippi missionaries Gary and Evelyn Harthcock in early June of this year. The following is excerpted from her newsletter of April 20, 1992.)

It is now spring in Mongolia and each day brings a surprise as to the weather. God gave us a warm 60-degree day for Easter. I attended three services starting at 10:00 a.m. and a concert of prayer from 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., then after dinner with friends, then home at 9:45 p.m. It was a blessing to celebrate Easter in Mongolia!

The next morning I opened the

Arkansas editor J. Everett Sneed dies

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — John Everett Sneed, editor of the Arkansas Baptist newsmagazine for 20 years, died June 26 at his home in North Little Rock of a heart attack.

In addition to his wife of 36 years, the former Mary Ellen Maynard of Birmingham, Ala., he is survived by two daughters, Chere' Sneed and Mary Catherine Sneed, both of North Little Rock, and one grandchild, Erika Michelle Rice of North Little Rock.

Sneed had announced he would retire Oct. 30 following his 62nd birthday Oct. 21.

He had been president of the Southern Baptist Press Association, the organization of Baptist state paper editors; and on the steering committee for the Arkansas Billy Graham Crusade.

Macedonia, Brookhaven, celebrates 140th

Macedonia Church, Brookhaven, will celebrate its 140th anniversary July 12.

William Bishop, former pastor, will bring the morning message. Services will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by a dinner on the ground at noon. Afternoon worship will include a memorial service, cemetery offering, and special singing.

Robert Perry is pastor.

curtains to see snow lightly falling. We are grateful for the moisture because the ground is dry and there is no grass as of yet to cover the dirt, which blows in the frequent windstorms and covers everything.

There are three Mongolian churches in Ulaanbaatar. Each church has many people who are enthusiastic about sharing their faith. One Mongolian college student brought her non-Christian English teacher to the international service because he was lonely and unhappy. She told him that would be a good place to meet people and learn how to be happy. Pray for God to give insight to these young church leaders that they would grow in the knowledge of the truth. They are excited about sharing their faith!

On April 15 and 17, I shared about the holiday of Easter [with the class I teach at the Medical Institute of Mongolia]. On April 15, I shared about the make-believe one, and on April 17, in simple terms, I shared the true meaning of Easter. I told them that we would celebrate Easter in Mongolia and shared when and where the three churches meet. After class, one student asked

which one I attended and said she wanted to come. She also told me that her brother attended church each Sunday and that she had been reading the Bible in Russian.

I enjoy teaching but recognize that this is only a way to share Christ.

Shopping is practically an everyday event for us. Each shop has only a few items, and each day they get new things. So we go from store to store carefully looking and asking God to show us what we need. We are able to buy food at stores for dollars and then I have a ration card to buy some other food in local currency. God has graciously provided, and I have even gained weight.

Harvest season is only once a year in the late summer/early fall. They mud-pack carrots, potatoes and other roots to sell during the next year. A Russian store in town has vegetables about once a month, so we go there and wait in line. Waiting in line is commonplace here, not the fast pace of America. God is again reminding me to slow down.

Each time I write, I will try to give a picture of the Mongolian culture to help you better pray for me.



Members of the Southern Baptist missionary team in Mongolia include (from left) Don McNeely, Helen McNeely, Martha Taylor, Mary Ellen Kirk, Laura Kirk, and Stan Kirk. (Special photo supplied by Martha Taylor)

NOBTS trustees approve changes, confirm music chair selection

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Trustees of New Orleans Seminary approved recommendations from the seminary's administrative council, naming Billy K. Smith as provost and academic dean of the graduate faculty and Jimmy W. Dukes as academic dean of the undergraduate faculty. Dukes is a native of Jackson, Miss.

The June meeting of the trustees' executive committee on the New Orleans campus also confirmed Benjamin L. Harlan as first occupant of the fully endowed Feazell Wall Chair of Church Music.

The seminary's administrative

council recommended a new administrative structure to clarify the relationship between the graduate and undergraduate work of the seminary, satisfying requirements of the Association of Theological Schools to keep the faculties, students, and academic matters separate.

The 75-year-old seminary has offered three associate-level degrees through its School of Christian Training since 1980. This fall the seminary plans to offer two baccalaureate degrees for students age 25 and older, bridging the gap between undergraduate- and graduate-level work.

ATS puts Southeastern on two-year probation

By Paul Brock

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, has received notice from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) that the Commission on Accreditation has placed the seminary on probation for two years. ATS indicated that the school had failed to show that the conditions cited in the June 1991 "show-cause" order had been remedied.

President-elect Paige Patterson received the communication from ATS during his second week of transition with President Lewis A. Drummond. Patterson commented that while this action was not unexpected, nevertheless it was "not a particularly pleasant welcome" to the school.

Patterson was pleased to note that in its adopted statement, ATS provided explicit continued approval of the Seminary's degree programs during the period of probation. "We are grateful that our students can be confident of continuing recognition of their academic and professional endeavors by the academic community."

"The complete satisfaction of the

Baptist Youth Night scheduled for July 24; 10,000 expected

The 1992 edition of Mississippi Baptists' Youth Night will take place Friday evening, July 24, at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

The program, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, begins at 7 p.m., with pre-program activity beginning at 6:45.

Since the program traditionally attracts more than 10,000 young people from all over the state, a

video hookup will be provided in the Trademart Building for overflow crowds.

Special guests for the evening will be Jack Millwood, pastor of First Church, North Mobile, Saraland, Ala., as featured speaker; Paul and Nicole Johnson, dramatists; and 4-Him, a Christian musical group.

Interpretation for the deaf will be provided in the coliseum.

Tom Sumralls, New Albany, experience Zimbabwe firsthand

First Church, New Albany, gave their pastor and his wife, Tom and Jane Sumrall, a trip to Zimbabwe, Africa, in recognition of their ten years of service at New Albany. Tom was the Bible teacher at the annual meeting of the missionaries and Jane assisted in Vacation Bible School for the children of missionaries. She took 51 T-shirts, \$40 worth of candy, and all kinds of handicrafts. "The kids loved it... especially the handicrafts."

There were 120 missionaries involved and 36 children.

Pastors, churches alerted to scam

Pastors and churches in Mississippi should be alert to a scam currently being conducted in the state. Several churches have been contacted via collect telephone call by a seemingly desperate young man who asks for the pastor by name. Recipients of the calls report that the man professes to be stranded out-of-state and in need of money to purchase a bus ticket to his hometown in Mississippi. The man then requests that the money be wired

to an address in Florida. The calls, which apparently began around July 1, bear strong similarities to a scam reported in February of 1990, in which a man professing to be a stranded missionary placed collect calls to churches in the state and asked for the pastor by name. In those instances, too, pastors were requested to wire money to an out-of-state address for the purchase of a ticket — this time for an airplane flight.

CLC's Land, Whitehead decry ruling on Casey

WASHINGTON (BP) — The executive director and general counsel of the Christian Life Commission have issued the following statements in response to the Supreme Court's Planned Parenthood vs. Casey decision June 29 upholding the Pennsylvania's abortion-restriction law, except for spousal notification, but reaffirming the 1973 Roe vs. Wade opinion.

CLC Executive Director Richard D. Land said, "I am pleased that the Court has affirmed the right of states to require parental consent for minors, ban sex-selection abortions, and abortions on babies viable outside the womb. It's also encouraging that the Court has upheld the right of states to require that pregnant women receive information about fetal development and abortion procedures that give them the basis upon which to give truly informed consent to an abortion procedure."

"I am perplexed, however, that the Court concurred in striking spousal notification. This is an anti-marriage, anti-family decision, not to mention blatantly anti-

male. It is a mystery to me how justices, all but one of whom are married, can fail to understand how destructive this ruling is to the marriage relationship. It denigrates spousal and paternal responsibilities.

"Pro-life America is increasingly weary with a Court that continues to do an excellent imitation of a youngster on his first trip on the high-diving board in dealing with the abortion issue. They tip-toe out to the end of the board, looking cautiously from side to side, sometimes even curling their toes over the end of the board and gingerly bouncing up and down, but they just can't summon the nerve to jump. Now three justices are crawling back down the ladder. It's well past time to take the plunge."

Michael Whitehead, the CLC's general counsel, said, "The Supreme Court took four baby steps in the right direction and one giant step backward. It upheld four of five restrictions on abortion under the Pennsylvania law and struck down the spousal notice rule. We expected the Court to

toddle timidly towards a reversal of Roe. Instead, a new majority has stumbled backward by expressly reaffirming the abortion on demand thinking of Roe.

"The practical result of the backward step is the voiding of the spousal notice rule. At least 73% of Americans believe that it is common sense to require a wife to at least inform her husband before having an abortion. The Pennsylvania law didn't require the husband to consent, just to be given notice.

"Under state laws, a wife can't even sell a used car owned with her husband without getting his signed consent. Surely state laws should be able to ask a wife to inform her husband before she takes the life of a child they co-generated.

"Pro-life America's hopes that Roe will be reversed next year have been dashed by so-called pro-life justices. Reversing Roe will require another, real pro-life justice to help Rehnquist, White, Scalia, and Thomas, who remain committed to stopping the convenience killing of pre-born babies."

Personnel, organizational changes announced in SSB restructuring

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — In a series of announcements about the continued restructuring of the Baptist Sunday School Board, President James T. Draper Jr. named nine people who will direct divisions and departments.

He also announced the retirement of eight long-tenured employees from middle- and upper-level management positions, effective on dates ranging from Sept. 1 to Nov. 1.

The organizational structure and nominations to nine of 18 positions that report directly to vice presidents of the board's four operational areas were affirmed June 25 by the board's trustee executive committee and general administration committee. They were announced June 26 to employees. Official approval awaits action by the full trustee board, which meets Aug. 17-19 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Three will be nominated as division directors. They are: Harry Piland, 63, director of the Sunday

School division for 14 years, will become director of Church Growth and Sunday School; Roy Edgemont, 57, director of the Discipleship Training Department since 1978, will become director of discipleship and family development; and Roland Maddox, 55, owner and president of a Memphis, Tenn.-based real estate development and sales company, and a former trustee of the board, will direct the newly created church program support division.

The newly created Marketing Research Department will be directed by Doug Anderson, 47, director of the Family Ministry Department since 1982. Jim Shull, 51, director of the Procurement and Administrative Services Department and a 22-year employee, will lead the Production Services Department.

Four department directors will continue in their present positions: Van Simpson, 49, director of the Information Systems Department

since 1974; Richard Bell, 53, director of the Property Management Department since 1986; Steve Lawrence, 48, director of the Human Resources Department since 1980; and Larry Haslam, 52, director of Glorieta Conference Center since 1973.

Employees retiring are: Dessel Aderholt, 62, director of publishing analysis, a 33-year employee; Martin Bradley, 64, director of the Corporate Planning and Research Department, 38 years; Andy Dodson, 53, director of the distribution services division, 27 years; Jimmy Edwards, 54, vice president for marketing and distribution, 23 years; Johnnie Godwin, 55, vice president for general publishing, 22 years; Bill Graham, 57, director of the book store division, 30 years; Ken McAnear, 58, director of Ridgecrest Conference Center, 35 years; and David Turner, 56, director of business development planning, 33 years.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

Task force examines education of "bi-vo" ministers

FORT WORTH — Bivocational ministry leaders called for more and better training of bivocational ministers at their national task force meeting in Irving, Texas, June 18-19.

The Home Mission Board sponsored the meeting to explore the intentional training of bivocational workers.

Dale Holloway, program consultant for bivocational ministries at the HMB, said bivocational ministry will

continue to increase in importance as the number of full-time church staff positions decrease. He said 18,000 Southern Baptist churches struggle to fully support their pastors. Holloway lives in Florence, Mississippi.

"Half of our seminary graduates are finding employment as a fully supported pastor is not available," he said. Holloway said in Alabama over half the pastors are bivocational and in North Carolina 48% are bivoca-

tional.

The 19-member task force is calling for churches, colleges, and seminaries to educate Christians about bivocational ministry and its validity and effectiveness. By doing so, potential bivocational ministers can prepare themselves by learning a second skill.

The task force is the first to examine intentional preparation for bivocational ministry.

Thursday, July 9, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



A big pay-off

BEST PALS — Mission volunteers don't get paid in dollars, but Edna Whitehead (right) sure got a big pay-off from 8-year-old Erika in Chile last year as missionary Clara Brincefield looked on. Whitehead, a grandmother of six and great-grandmother of five from Rives, Tenn., went to Chile with her husband, Frank, a veteran builder who participated in a church construction project near Temuco. When the volunteer group arrived at the building site, neighbor Erika appeared at the fence to look them over. She spotted Whitehead and soon claimed a place by her side. Erika took her adopted grandmother home to meet her parents, who didn't attend any church, and the whole family was invited to attend the new mission church when it was completed. Erika also came to Vacation Bible School and got a new Bible from Whitehead and Brincefield. (FMB photo)

Convenience tops list of abortion reasons

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — "Minus 1%" is the figure Sylvia Boothe gives to emphasize how rare the demand for abortion is in cases of rape or incest.

Just 2% of abortions are used to save the life of the mother, mainly because of uterine cancer or ectopic pregnancies, said Boothe, coordinator for Alternatives to Abortion Ministries, a cooperative effort between Southern Baptists' Home Mission Board and Christian Life Commission.

"Most abortions, 98%, are for convenience," she said.

The ministry's booth in the Southern Baptist Convention's exhibit hall, June 9-11, featured a series of life-size models of a baby in various stages of pregnancy, all stages in which abortions are legal.

Upon viewing the models, passers-by responded with awe. "It's so tiny, but it even has fingernails," commented one teenage girl to another when they stopped for a closer look at the 12-week-old fetus, barely 3 inches in length.

A mother of three said in amazement, "I didn't know their hearts were beating on their own from the moment of conception. I never considered an abortion but I would have felt differently about my babies from the beginning if I had known that fact when I was pregnant.... A woman considering an

abortion would have to realize she'd be murdering her baby if she heard that fact."

Two years ago the Home Mission Board asked Boothe, formerly director of a crisis pregnancy center in Oklahoma City, to coordinate a national crisis pregnancy center ministry. The purpose of the ministry is to "educate and equip Southern Baptists to become involved in long-term, positive ministry to those involved in crisis pregnancies," Boothe said. "This is not just a 15-minute pregnancy test. It can be a lifetime commitment with the women involved."

Thirty million abortions have been reported in the past 20 years, said Boothe, a former Foreign Mission Board missionary to Thailand and France. And many of those abortions were requested by Southern Baptist women.

Besides counseling on abortion alternatives — either parenting or adoption — volunteers at the centers also are trained to provide post-abortion counseling.

"We've got a lot of hurting people sitting in our churches," Boothe said. Those among the hurting are not only women but also men who fathered the babies, moms and dads who would have been grandparents and friends who suggested the abortion route.

Thursday, July 9, 1992

Who proclaimed Calamity Week?

By Annie Denman

Note: Annie Denman, 96, writer of the following article, lives at Manhattan Health Care Center, Jackson. Blinded in infancy by a doctor's erroneous prescription, she in later years said she was grateful for her handicap because it gave her opportunities for service that her 10 siblings did not have. She studied at the Mississippi School for the Blind and was the first blind student ever admitted to Mississippi State University for Women. There girls in her classes volunteered to study with her, and read to her.

After graduation, she became a teacher at the state school for the blind. Miss Denman, a member of Parkway Church, Jackson, also writes poetry. The following article, alive with her sense of humor, is an excerpt from a letter to her friend, Charlotte Causey, and is used with their permission.

"The church used to send me the Baptist Record," Denman quipped, "but I could not see to read it, so I told them to drop it. I appreciate it, but the only way I could use it would be to shine my shoes." — AWM

Monday Morning — April something

Who proclaimed this Local Calamity Week? Bush? Satan? My assigned demon? Or circumstances? The news media doesn't say.

The last few days and late nights somebody walks the hall opening doors silently as she goes. That makes a draft in our rooms—when the wind blows a certain way, a cold draft. Several times I scrambled up, rolled across and closed the door, but irritation soon made me press nurses' call light, then blow my police whistle at 1 o'clock in the morning. My police whistle? Well, that was the only way I could secure attention. Slamming the door never worked. I could have flown a kite in that cold draft, but we don't have kites here!

The next night when our door problem started again, I complained to the aide and she said: "Some walk around at night; we can't control them." Sniffing the coffee that somebody was making, I said with a surprised sarcasm: "You can control them!" No more doors were flung open that night. That was Calamity One.

At 4:30 next morning I woke to type a letter, feeling a compulsion to write since no noise disturbs



Annie Denman, 96, blind, and dependent on a wheelchair, blows a police whistle to summon an aide at the health care center where she lives.

my Alzheimer's roommate. She sleeps like Rip Van Winkle.

But I began to make typographical errors anyway. Suddenly a clatter proclaimed that a box of little things had fallen at my feet — nail files, nail polish, comb, paper clips, pencils, etc. Groaning, I rolled back a few inches, bent double forward in the chair, and managed to collect most of the fallen articles, then went back to typing. That was the Second Calamity!

Feeling thirsty, I rolled to the bathroom to make up a drink of non-intoxicating Instant Breakfast. That involved standing while holding to the lavatory, reaching up high for my tin cup in the cabinet, sitting, reaching behind in my wheelchair for my Instant Breakfast powder. Then, when I flushed the commode, the thing ran over with a roar. Pressing the emergency cord brought an aide who threw my bath towel and a blanket on the floor so I could roll back to my bed, though with my feet raised. Hours later the trouble was reported and the problem solved. That was calamity Number Three.

To get radio news around six o'clock, I stepped out on the floor into a spreading puddle of water caused by the last big rain. Half the room was wet; but later it received a good mopping, so that incident was good in its way.

After the mopping, when I needed to roll to the bathroom urgently, my wheel chair was — where on earth was it? Not having time to call an aide by pressing the call

button, I began to blow my whistle long and shrilly. People were beginning to wake anyway. That brought one. The wheelchair had been turned backward to my bed and locked!

I wondered how and when that day would end. It ended with noodles and meatballs on the super tray, which I detested. So I rolled across to my new inanimate family member, Fridgerette, a table model little refrigerator, and pulled out some pineapple cheese which Tony had brought. That gave me a good meal.

Of course I put the cheese container into my apron pocket and made it back across without the lid coming off, which ended that day's calamities. Once when I dropped a slice of Velveeta cheese through the chair enroute, I bent double forward, rolled a few inches, and secured the cheese without rolling on top of it! I am learning.

One more calamity! I neglected to turn the other page over and so typed two pages on one side! Thus, the handwritten portion of this letter!

Shirley came Sunday, and we had a precious time of fellowship. I told her that I wasn't worried about breaking a hip. Since I break one every 10 years, the next break wouldn't be due until 1996 and by then, I hope to be onto a better planet.

Let me share a message I heard on the radio the other day. The Lord said, "Trust me! Trust me! I'm still on the throne, working for you, waiting for you, watching over my own."

Fall applications jump 81% at Carey

Fall 1992 undergraduate applications are 81% ahead of a year ago and could reach all-time highs on each of William Carey College's campuses in Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and New Orleans.

The quality of students who are planning to enroll has also increased because of improved

marketing strategies according to Carey's new director of enrollment management, Tom Scarbrough, who joined the college in November 1991 after a 17-year career at Mississippi State University.

"We are keeping the cost of attendance very competitive with both private and state-supported

institutions.

"Our freshman applications are up 112% because we have worked very closely with high school counselors and teachers to emphasize the quality of our faculty and the personal attention students are provided in the smaller classes offered at Carey," stated Scarbrough.

Book reviews

A NEW DAY, by Anita Bryant (Broadman Press, Nashville, Tenn.; 208 pp., \$14.95, hard cover, 1992).

"Whatever happened to Anita Bryant?" That question was probably asked many times during the eleven years of her absence from public view. Bryant's career had brought her fame, wealth, and respect as a Christian entertainer. She had received numerous awards and honors, among them "The Most Admired Woman in America" as named by Good Housekeeping magazine. The Gallup Poll listed her among the top ten women in the world.

In her book, Anita Bryant recounts the pain and anguish of those years following her highly controversial stand against legislation which would have required that homosexuals be hired as teachers in private religious schools. Bryant lost contracts, bookings, and finally her marriage of 20 years. The public which had loved her turned against her. Friends and business associates were reluctant to get involved with the "fallen" Anita Bryant.

Bryant shares the touching experiences of how her family, along with a few friends who believed in her, gather around to offer loving support as she looked to God to help her rebuilt her life and help her four children adjust to their upside down world. Her faith and assurance that it is a new day and that God's mercies are new every day will inspire others who may be facing similar situations. — Reviewed by Betty Smith, Clinton.

THE THOUGHT OCCURRED TO ME (A Book About Owen Cooper), by Don McGregor (Fields Communications & Publishing, Nashville, Tenn.; 250 pp., paper, 1992).

This book talks about Owen Cooper's many accomplishments in the secular world and his church and denominational life. His secular accomplishments were ways of spreading his missions endeavors all over the world. He had a consuming desire to help others, and he then used the efforts of those he had helped to help still others.

Along the way he caused the policies of the Foreign Mission Board to be rewritten. He was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention and of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and was named the layman of the century among Mississippi Baptists.

He caused to be built the business employing the greatest number of people in Mississippi. From that experience, he caused to be built an even larger business, a fertilizer plant, in India so that the Indian people could eat better.

Then he became interested in the souls of the Indian people and set up his own mission board to hire Indian church planters because the Foreign Mission Board could not send missionary evangelists there.

The story, or stories, are told through the eyes of those who

were closest to him — his business associates, friends, and family.

The foreword is by his long-time associate Jerry Clower, who nominated him president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The book is available from P. O. Box 23105, Jackson, Miss. 39225, or from the Baptist Bookstores in Jackson, New Orleans, and Gulfshore.

LIVING WITH DYING, Finding Meaning in Chronic Illness, by George Lea Harper Jr. (Eerdmans, 117 pp.; \$8.95, paper, 1992).

In the introduction of this book, George Lea Harper writes: "I am a man who has cancer. For more than six years now, this reality has shaped my life, my work, and my faith." He invites the reader to walk with him through the struggles and triumphs of living with chronic illness.

Many of the chapters were written while Harper was in the hospital for surgery or waiting for the next chemotherapy treatment. With honesty, he writes of the toll of his illness on each member of his family, the "sour" relationships, the inability to plan ahead, the frustration of having to decide about treatment, of living out of control.

Harper also shares ways his faith has been deepened through his experience, emphasizing the importance of surrendering to God in trust. He reveals the many opportunities for joy in spite of suffering. Humor is possible as well as joy, Harper points out, and demonstrates through amusing anecdotes how laughter can help us through the suffering.

Filled with personal illustrations, practical insights, and creative reflections upon biblical texts, *Living With Dying* is a thoughtful, realistic, and even humorous book for those suffering from chronic illness as well as their family members, friends, and caregivers.

George Lea Harper Jr., an ordained United Methodist minister, is on disability leave from his position as professor of religion at Pembroke State University, Pembroke, North Carolina. — Reviewed by Betty Smith, Clinton

WMU activist and former missionary dies

Agnes Smith Walker, 81, of Hattiesburg, retired Home Mission Board missionary and former WMU Executive Board member, died in Wiggins on June 27. Funeral Services were held Monday, June 29, at Hulett-Winstead Chapel in Hattiesburg. Burial was in Roseland Park Cemetery in Hattiesburg.

She was the widow of the late Rev. A.T. Walker and is survived by a son, Jerrel T. Walker of Carnes, and a daughter, Cheryl Grant of Ocean Springs.

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 9, 1992

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

ZIMBABWE EXPERIENCE

Betty Breland,
Cedar Grove Baptist Church
Columbia, Miss.

I never cease to be amazed at how the Lord works in my life each new day. Me? A volunteer to Zimbabwe for WMU training? But, that was exactly where He wanted me to go. I saw first-hand the results of the praying and giving to missions, the dedication and commitment on the part of our missionaries, and the need for more praying and giving so others will go and share Jesus.

The warmth of the climate in Zimbabwe was nothing compared to the warmth of the people we worked with. It is so wonderful to know that I now have 10 new prayer partners. The ladies in my conference of WMU Secretaries and Treasurers are now my prayer partners in each of our places of service, Mississippi and Zimbabwe. What a partnership!! I wish space permitted me to share each lady's testimony with you, but I thank the Lord for allowing me the privilege to have met them. Commitment to the Lord brings about dedication in His work and WMU is the Lord's work for these precious ladies.

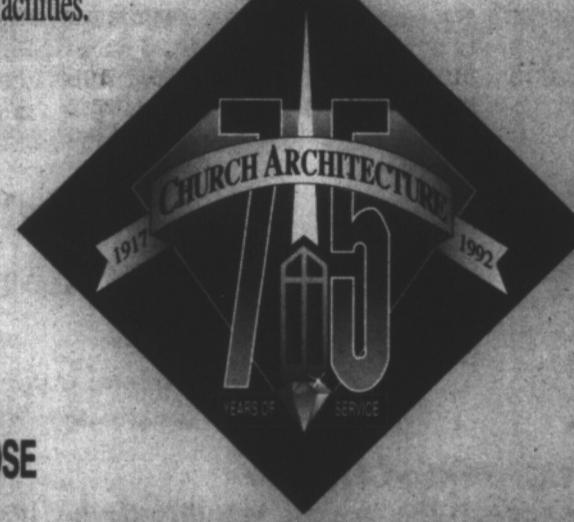
Missionary June Mason told us that WMU is the strongest work in the churches of Zimbabwe. I can see why because they see WMU as a way of carrying out their commitment to their Lord. I shall continue to pray for them in their work and I know they will pray for me in Mississippi. Zimbabwe needs our prayers for more rain and more missionaries to work in the fields. Many missionaries are nearing retirement and because they have been faithful they want the work to continue there. Yes, there is warmth in Zimbabwe because of their faithfulness to share the love of Jesus where they go. May I urge you to be a volunteer in missions and see how the Lord can amaze you each new day.

HT

For more information on how you can participate in the Zimbabwe-Mississippi Partnership, contact Bill Hardy at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

NATIONAL CHURCH BUILDING SEMINAR

A comprehensive presentation of the church building and planning process with specific workshops and tours applicable to your proposed facilities.



PURPOSE

To offer church leaders foundational preparation and insight for a successful building program.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Pastors, Church Administrators, Ministers of Education, Long-Range Planning Committees, Building Committees, and any church leader facing the need for new space or involved in the building planning process.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- How to organize your people for a building program
- Expert presentations on Interior Design and Master Planning/Landscape Architecture
- Planning for unique needs of each age group
- Personalized consultation for the unique program of the church (education, worship, music, recreation, offices, etc.)
- Fund-raising and financing
- Workshops for specialized situations

SCHEDULE

- September 14
3:00 P.M. - Registration
5:30 P.M. - Banquet and Keynote Address

- September 15
8:45 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. - Planning Development and Programs - Special Interest Situations

- September 16
8:45 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. - Special Programs and Consultations

- September 17
8:45 A.M. - Noon - Financial Planning - Review and Final Questions

FEE

\$65.00 per person before August 3, 1992. \$75.00 afterwards

REGISTRATION

Deadline - August 17, 1992

For complete information on how to register please call Matt Buckles, consultant, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, MBCB at 968-3800, ext. 3907 or the Church Architecture Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board at (615)251-2466.

SPONSORED BY

Church Architecture Department
Gwen McCormick, Director

Church Services Division
Robert Turner, Director

Kenneth Nicholson, Champion

by Debbie Baird Buie

Kenneth Nicholson has a reputation for being interested in missions—and if you are interested in missions it follows you must be interested in how missions is supported. And so Nicholson became Handsboro Baptist's, Gulfport, Cooperative Program Champion.

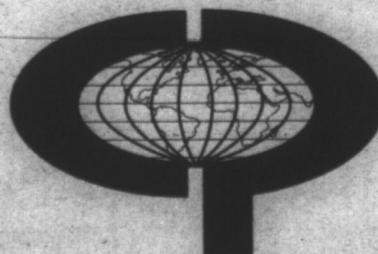
"We've been fortunate these many years living so close to the (New Orleans Baptist) seminary," Nicholson said. "Our church has had many of its students and professors supply here, and we have learned how they all depend on Cooperative Program support. We have known a good many missionaries who are supported through the Cooperative Program. The results of our Cooperative Program giving are really very close to home."

"I feel very strongly about this, the better educated Southern Baptists are as to what the Cooperative Program is doing and why their gifts are important, the stronger it will be," said Nicholson. He remembered the days when churches like his gave as much as 22 percent of their church budget through the Cooperative Program. "Now we are pleased we are able to hold at 11 percent."

Nicholson believes pastors and church members need to realize their personal importance to the success of missions and the training of our future denominational leaders, and then perhaps individuals and churches will increase, not just hold, their Cooperative Program allocations. "An emphasis every month or two on giving will encourage people to give systematically—even non-tithers," he said.

Has Nicholson always been so gung-ho about giving—well, there was a time when he was just learning. That's when the late Dr. E.N. Wilkinson, then Handsboro's pastor, and Malachi 3:10 impressed upon him why the Cooperative Program is so important.

"My pastor was a prime promoter of giving. Every Sunday just before the offertory prayer he would speak less than a minute on the gifts and the giver. He said the Cooperative Program amounts to missions," Nicholson said. "Many Baptists may argue it's not New Testament, but Malachi applies to us today. 'Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, . . . saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.'"



The Cooperative Program

Student Summer Missionaries to serve in Mississippi

The Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board provided a three-day orientation for seven Student Summer Missionaries who are working in five associations for ten weeks.

The students are:

1. James McGrady, Southern Illinois University, to work in Covington-Jeff Davis Association
2. Michele Lee Gwartney, Oklahoma Baptist University, to work in Monroe Association
3. Rebecca Shae Huggins, University of Central Florida, to work in North Delta Association



Cooperative Missions Summer Missionaries from left to right are: Rebecca Shae Huggins, Heather Pennington, James McGrady, Jennifer Leah Shearon, Boyd Herrington, and Glenn Brister

4. Heather Pennington, Delta State University, to work in North Delta Association
5. Boyd Herrington, Blue Mountain College, to work in Prentiss Association
6. Glenn Brister, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, to work in Pike Association
7. Jennifer Leah Shearon, Northeast Mississippi Community College, to work in Prentiss Association

The students will be conducting a variety of mission activities including VBS, Christian Social Ministries, Back Yard Bible Clubs, Big A Clubs, day camps, surveys, resort and mobile home ministries, recreation and singing.

Richard Brogan serves as consultant to the Student Summer Missions Program which is funded and coordinated by the Home Mission Board and Cooperative Program gifts.

BIBLE/PREACHING/ ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE

July 23 -25, 1992

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Sponsored by:

Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries • Broadcast Services
Cooperative Missions • Stewardship Departments

CONFERENCES FOR:

MINISTERS - led by **Waylon Bailey, Paul Powell, Mark Short**

MINISTERS' WIVES - led by **Betty Dobbs**

DEACONS - led by **Robert Sheffield**

SECRETARIES - led by **Betty Dobbs**

CHURCH MISSIONS DEVELOPMENT - led by **Orrin Morris**

CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY - led by **Stephen Gateley**

STEWARDSHIP LEADERS - led by **Donald O'Quinn and David Michel**

YOUTH - led by **Rob Futral**

PRESCHOOLERS AND CHILDREN - coordinated by **Karen Buckles**

Bill Sellers (MBCB Annuity representative) will be available for consultation.

MUSIC by **Rick Greene and Patsy Alford**

For lodging reservations contact

Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571
(601)452-7261.

For conference registration contact

Julius Thompson, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
(601)968-3800, extension 3908.

Mississippi Prayergram July 9-23, 1992

Pray for the mission work in Kenya (East Africa), where the work among Muslims is "tough despite responsiveness," according to the missionaries who work there.

Pray for the Christian movement in Iran. The Christian church there is growing secretly but steadily. Evangelical groups that engage in evangelism often experience severe persecution.

Pray about the request of Cooperative Services International, that has issued an urgent call for nurse volunteers to serve among the Kurdish people in northern Iraq. Nurses could serve long or short terms (periods of three weeks or more).

Pray for Yun Yong, director of the Ministry to International Seafarers for the South Jersey Baptist Association. He asks for prayer for the success of a new ministry that he has started for the families of international seamen. The most difficult problem seamen face today concerns family relationships.

Pray for Lisa Chilson, Mission Service Corps missionary serving as associate director of East Seventh Street Baptist Ministry. Pray for a team of workers to help her in a housing project in New York's Lower East Side. People are needed who have a vision of working with low-income families and people of different cultures. Also one or two people are needed to start a church in the project.

Pray for Bruce Conrad, pastor of the Central Indian Baptist Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. The purpose of the church is to minister to Native Americans.

Pray for our BSU missionaries from Mississippi, who are sending back reports from all over the US and the world. Comments are interesting: "I wasn't sure what to expect, but so far I have had a wonderful surprise." "This is the greatest mission field I've seen."

"I cannot wait to serve God in this place." Keep these wonderful young missionaries in your prayers.

Pray for the Discipleship Training Conference to be held at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, July 9-11, 1992

Pray for youth camps to be held in Miss. during the summer months. Especially remember the G.A.-Acteen Camps at Garaywa and the R.A. Camps at Central Hills.

Pray that the summer program in our Mississippi churches will continue strong and purposeful to win the lost and help believers to grow.

HT

EQUIPPING THE LABORERS TO TEACH

This conference will focus on reaching people for Bible study, improving Bible teaching, and strengthening ALL areas of a church's Bible teaching program.

Conference will be offered for church staff and ALL Sunday School leadership.

"A Service of your Cooperative Program"
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD
Bill Causey, Executive Director-Treasurer
Eugene Dobbs, Administrative Assistant for Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
Keith Wilkinson, Director
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 968-3800

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

LABOR DAY SPEAKER:
Willa Ruth Garlow

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday

12:30-5:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00-4:00 p.m.	Beach Activities
4:00 p.m.	Faculty Meeting
5:15 p.m.	Dinner
6:00-7:00 p.m.	General Session
7:10-8:45 p.m.	Fast Breaks
9:00 p.m.	Watermelon on the pier

Saturday

7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00-9:15 a.m.	Session I
9:30-10:45 a.m.	Session II
11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Session III
12:30 p.m.	Lunch

For more information, call Linda Reeves, consultant, Sunday School Department, MBCB, at 968-3800, ext. 3892

YOUTH NIGHT 1992

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night
Friday, July 24

In the Coliseum

with overflow in the Trademart

- 6:40 p.m. Pre-Program Activity
- 7:00 p.m. Program Begins

WITH SPECIAL QUESTS

• JACK MILLWOOD •

• 4-HIM • PAUL & NICOLE JOHNSON •

A LOVE OFFERING WILL RECEIVED

Interpretation for the deaf
will be provided in the Coliseum

For information concerning YOUTH NIGHT contact:
L. Graham Smith at 968-3800, ext. 3867.

Computer Assisted Music Ministry

••• August 14 - 1:00 P.M. •••
•• August 15 - 11:45 A.M. ••

Baptist Building Jackson

CLINICIANS

Joe Martin

Joe is the owner/director of MusiKids, a preschool music education program. Joe has been published extensively by Brentwood, Alfred, Belwin Mills, Genevox and GlorySound publishing companies as well as being a solo artist who has performed throughout the U.S. and Mexico. His experience with computers comes from this demanding background.



Patrick Houlihan

Patrick, a native of Louisiana, received his Doctorate from University of Mississippi in Music Theory. He is presently a professor at Miss. Valley State University. Patrick has had a great deal of experience with computers and is recognized for his fresh and successful ideas. He has written numerous articles as well as made many presentations concerning electronic music, sequencers and computer assisted compositions.

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Letters to the editor



Violation of precept

Editor:

I feel I must express an opinion concerning the Southern Baptist Convention that just ended. The fact of the matter is that the convention, in its vote to withdraw fellowship from two North Carolina churches, violated a basic precept of Southern Baptist polity.

There was no fellowship from which to withdraw.

I feel the convention had no choice but to make a statement on homosexuality, and I feel that the two churches forced the issue. No one has any more reprobation for homosexuality than I do, and scriptures clearly point out its sinfulness.

I fear, however, that some elements of Southern Baptist polity are being lost through neglect or intentional diversion. The fact is that churches are not members of the Southern Baptist Convention; and, therefore, there cannot be a withdrawal of fellowship. The members of the convention are those messengers who attend each individual session. There were almost 18,000 members this year. But this year's convention, as do they all, lasted three days; and it was over. There will not be another one until next year. It will be different because different people will be there.

Through the years since 1845 there has been no connection between the churches and the national body. If the idea of withdrawing fellowship becomes acceptable, that will change.

To this point, what is known as the Southern Baptist Convention has been simply a loose alliance of churches in voluntary cooperation to accomplish greater tasks. If the withdrawal of fellowship concept is allowed to stand, we will have become a structured body with some person or entity making decisions for us.

The convention has the privilege of altering its constitution in order to point out that certain churches are not in voluntary cooperation and therefore not a part of it. This has not been done in the past, because to do so brings up certain sins; and how long would the list become?

The convention has every right to pass a resolution concerning the actions of churches and to establish that a church's messengers will not be seated. Each convention, however, must make that determination for itself.

To withdraw fellowship from a church changes the nature of the convention as we have known it.

That gives somebody the position of oversight.

It could be intentional.

Don T. McGregor
Editor emeritus
Baptist Record

Legality changes morals

Editor:

How are "blue laws," suggestive, risqué movies/television, and the lottery related? They are all three

moral issues about which Baptists have taken a stand. The first two issues seem to have been resolved. In both cases, when illegal activity became legal, we Baptists treated them as if their becoming legal from a civil position caused them to be approved activities for Christians.

How many of us now refuse to shop on Sunday? How many refuse to patronize movies, rent movies, or watch either day or night time soap operas? We who do not could probably meet in a telephone booth for our worship services.

Once a lottery becomes legalized, will that change the morality of Christian participation? It has for the other two issues. It appears hypocritical to vote against allowing lost people to gamble when we now condone and abet activities which we were trying to prohibit for lost people just a few years ago. Maybe our attitude is "If we can't do it, we will make it against the law for lost people to do it."

Ray A. Thompson
Jackson

All need reminders

Editor:

I would not question whether our leaders in government at all levels believe in God. I do suspect, however, that many are oblivious to, or at least unconcerned, that there will be a day of judgement.

It has been said that the world needs not so much to be informed as to be reminded. I think many should have the following scriptures brought to their attention immediately:

Heb. 10:26: "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins."

Gal. 6:7: "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he reap."

Romans 14:12: "So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God."

All should be ever conscious that there will be a judgement day in which we will be required to give an account of our deeds. Are we keeping that in mind, or do we foolishly believe we can knowingly sin with impunity or have acceptable excuses for our wrongs?

L. Aubrey Wells
Clinton

Too little, too late

Editor:

In response to the excellent article, "Television's control over families," of the June 4 edition of the Baptist Record:

It does not appear that we are always ready to lock the barn door after the horse is stolen, or to put it another way, too little and too late.

How timely that you should mention that in this country we have more TVs than toilets. From all I can gather, that is where 95% of all TV programming needs to be. Someone suggested an even higher percentage, but not owning a TV myself, I want to give the benefit of the doubt.

Addiction is a slow process, but

once it grabs hold, then up go our taxes for more research and rehabilitation. Why is it allowed (even encouraged) to reach the point where millions must be spent to attempt bringing people back where they should have been to start with.

Let us never underestimate our holy God who gave us a complete book of instruction to keep us from the insurmountable problems we face today. We don't need to debate God's requirements, just obey them.

So, after you have decided to unplug the problem, these two verses given to us from his Word could put you back on track:

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

Nancy Page Goldstine
Picayune

Seeking pastor

Editor:

Our church, located in a military community in northeastern Italy, was recently notified that our present pastor would be leaving at the end of June 1992.

We are a congregation of 70 members, with an average attendance of 125. The average age of the church members is 26-28.

We are interested in corresponding with anyone who may feel called to minister to our church and the Aviano, Italy community.

Donald F. Thompson
Aviano Baptist Church
PSC 54 Box 1474
APO AE 09601

Back to bold missions

Editor:

I was appalled by the request for "unity" from the leadership of the SBC in Indianapolis. At the same time, I feel a glimmer of hope for the future in that the one thing that can bring the present situation to an end is beginning to appear — greed.

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The current president moves on to the top position in the Executive Committee.

One of the architects of the conflict is slated to move into the position on the Foreign Mission Board (as a trustee) from which Keith Parks has been driven.

What is coming? There will not be enough high positions to satisfy all of them — and thereby comes the end.

Evidence of internal strife is already beginning to appear. If you have not heard or read the address of Keith Parks to the convention, do so. We must return bold missions to the number one priority.

Roger B. Johnson
Hattiesburg

Pastors needed

Editor:

Would you like to become a pastor in a much-needed mission ministry in the Cumberland Mountains of East Tennessee? We have two small churches that have the potential of becoming strong with the right pastor. Hundreds of people live within a five-mile radius of each church.

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Ken McMillen
Director of missions

Medical/dental news

Editor:

Greetings from Teresina, Piaui, Brazil, the land of eternal summer! The medical/dental volunteer team from Mississippi was here the first week in May. There were 17 team members. Over 1,900 consultations and over 1,320 prescriptions for medicines were dispensed. Many people who could not afford to go to a doctor, dentist, or eye specialist received help. Over 500 pairs of glasses were given out. There were ten decisions for Christ, and the faith of many Christians was strengthened during this tremendous week. It was a time of great victories in a spiritual war of tremendous proportions. Satan had done his best to try to ruin or stop this volunteer mission effort, but the victory was God's. We believe it was because of the prayers of many of you. Thank you for your faithfulness in praying.

Those Mississippians involved were: S. A. Adkins, Forest; Kermit Reynolds, Forest; Mrs. Vernoy Reynolds, Forest; Randall Reynolds, Forest; R. J. Reynolds, Newton; DeWayne Blackwell, Laurel; Austin Blackwell, Laurel; Jerry Adkins, Biloxi; Loden Waggoner, Forest; Carolyn Fountain, Forest; Joyce Lasseter, Forest; Wanda Plunkett, Clarksdale; Clinton Floyd, Forest; Alisa Brashears, Clinton; Cheryl Floyd, Forest; and David Lee, Newhebron.

Thank you for being so faithful in praying for us and our work. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your joys and prayer needs as you minister in your part of the world.

Vic and Sharon Johnston
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Thursday, July 9, 1992

Just for the Record



Charles H. Melton Jr., (center), long-time minister in Newton County and religious educator at Clarke College, was honored in early June of this year with a retirement reception, where he was presented with a plaque, gifts, and other items to commemorate his 30 years of service in the county. On hand to honor Melton were (from left) Evelyn Williams, Newton Association clerk; Vera Virginia Melton, his wife; Ron Gilstrap, Newton Association moderator; and Belinda Gilstrap, Newton Association WMU director.



Seventeen youths of First Church, West Point, participated in State Bible Drills. They are pictured: front row, Melanie Spradling; second row, from left, Ty Brown, Amy Gray, Micci Henry, Amy Hudson, Kim Clark; middle row, Patrick O'Shea, Mia Smothers, Amanda Sullivan, Amy O'Shea, Wendy Hudson; back row, Ben Harrelson, Jay Jackson, Brad Harrelson, and Jonathan Simmons. Not pictured are Sylvia McElhenney and Andrew Hooker. Their leaders were Lanell Early, Peggy O'Shea, and Bob Farrar.



First Church, Durant, recently dedicated a new building containing office and educational space. The dedication service was led by former pastors Ed McDaniel and Steven Delony. Building committee members were Doug Self (chairman), Ralph Ellington, Lou L. Ferguson, Buddy Hathcock, and Robert Irby Jr. With a "Together We Build" campaign, the church intends to be debt-free in three years. Jerry Bishop is pastor.

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the May 7 issue of the Baptist Record: Jones: Pecan Grove; and Neshoba: High Hill.

FMB

From page 3

began to launch missions work in Europe.

Parks' modest retirement package was recommended "at his own request and consistent with his lifestyle of sacrificial service," according to a motion passed by trustees, who took note of the "meritorious service" of Parks and his wife, Helen Jean.

Trustees said the package closely parallels benefits received by Baker James Cauthen, former FMB president whom Parks succeeded in 1980.

Parks' package includes the gift of a 1990 Ford, provided by the FMB, which he has driven for two

years; a retirement reception; dedication of an upcoming book on the FMB's 150-year history to him and Mrs. Parks; a book of letters of appreciation from persons around the world; and expenses for him and Mrs. Parks to attend the annual Southern Baptist Convention meetings and missions week at the Southern Baptist conference centers for life "unless he were to be employed by another mission-sending agency."

Parks will also receive the normal FMB staff retirement benefits — a lump-sum gift of \$100 for each year of service (\$3,800), a \$40,000 term life insurance policy, medical insurance coverage for him and his wife, and a pension accrued through contributions over the years to the Southern Baptist annuity program.

Revival dates

Liberty, Noxapater: July 12-15; 7:30 p.m.; Andre Dobson, South Louisville Church, Louisville, evangelist; William Smith, Noxapater Church, music; Bobby Parish, pastor.

Enterprise (Mississippi): July 12-17; Sunday, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Ronnie Jones, Mt. Olive, evangelist; Gary Van Norman, music; Sue Kinabrew, pianist; Odell Tibo, pastor.

Crystal Springs, Tylertown: July 12-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Steve Mize, Cave City,

Ark., evangelist; Andy Cummings, Mt. Vernon Church, Columbus, music; Les Hughes, pastor.

Bethesda, Terry: July 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Wayne Elliott, Trinity church, Sulphur, La., evangelist; Bethesda's worship choir and Joe Daniels, music; Barry Boquet, pastor.

Longview Church, Starkville: July 13-17; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Tommy Whaley, Pleasant Hill, Columbus, evangelist; Kevin Pinney, Friendship, Sturgis, music; James Hutcherson, pastor.

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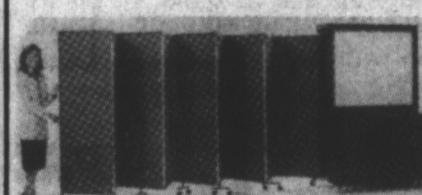
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Names in the news



The Burnham family in Harperville (left) represents four generations of the 129-resident membership of Harperville Church. Pictured, left to right, are: John Burnham Jr., a deacon; Mrs. J. R. "Mama" Burnham Sr., who is 93 years of age; Kathy Burnham Lee, daughter of John Burnham; and her daughter, Joni Lee.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Edward E. (Dale) Nowell of Kosciusko has earned and received the diploma in pastoral ministries from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. He is a member of Providence Church in Kosciusko. Nowell completed a series of 16 courses in earning the diploma in pastoral ministries. The Independent Study Institute is the correspondence arm of Seminary Extension, operated by the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

First Church, Kosciusko, recognized P. C. Cain on Sunday, June 21, for 22 years of service as church literature director. The plaque was presented by Barry C. Corbett to Cain's great grandson, Richard, who presented it to his father, Steve, who presented it to his father, John Robert, who presented it to his father, P. C. Cain.

Elizabeth Jacob Marble of California has left for Spain to serve for two years as an associate in the office of the executive director of the Spanish Baptist Union. She will live in Valencia, address: S. Ferrandiz Luna, 44, 11A, Valencia, Spain. Marble is the daughter of Floy Jacob, former missionary to China, who is now 101 years old. Jacob lives in Aberdeen with her daughter, Mary Ingram.



Deacons recently ordained at Shady Grove Church, Pontotoc Association, left to right, are Keith Hill, Tim Ross, Dickey Ross, Bobby Earl Churchill, and James Murry. Leonard Howell is pastor.

First, Southaven observes 30 years

First Church, Southaven, will celebrate its 30th birthday July 19. Regular morning services will be followed by a special afternoon program of music and homecoming activities.

Edsel Bone is pastor.



Robert Jordan, Sunday School director at Wynndale Church, Terry, presents a certificate of recognition to Mary Catherine Gentry for teaching 25 years in Sunday School. The recognition was sponsored by the Sunday School Board.

Blair, retired pastor, dies

W. P. Blair, 73, a retired pastor and member of First Church, Magee, died July 1. Funeral services were held July 2 at Oak Grove Church, Simpson County.

He is survived by his wife, Earlene; a daughter, Martha Neely of Jackson; and a son, Burnell, also of Jackson.

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FISHER

From page 3

worked at Deposit Guaranty National Bank in Jackson as assistant trust officer and account administrator.

Fisher holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Mississippi at Oxford and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Mississippi College. He is also a Certified Financial Planner (CFP).

While at Mississippi College,

Fisher served as president and treasurer of the Student Body Association and was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Beta Gamma Sigma, and Mortar Board honorary organizations. In addition, he was selected to receive the Mississippi College Founder's Award for leadership and service.

Fisher is a member of First Church, Jackson, where he is a Sunday School Department director, worship service usher, and Royal Ambassador worker. He and his wife Beth have a 31-month old daughter.

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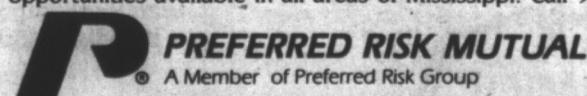


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Uniform Warning to Judah



By Margaret H. Rogers
Zephaniah 1:1-2:15

Zephaniah, considered one of the minor prophets due to the brevity of his writings, is not as well known as some of the other prophets. He, with Jeremiah, Nahum, and Habakkuk, are known as the seventh century prophets. The name Zephaniah means "the Lord hides (or protects)." He was approximately 20 years old in 630 B. C. at the time of the writing of his prophecy. His home was Jerusalem and he had accurate knowledge of the city since he had probably lived there all of his life.

It must have been an exciting experience for the alert young man to live in such a crucial time in international affairs and to be a witness of the transfer of world power from one kingdom to another. At the time of his tenure as prophet, Babylonia was the dominant power. His ancestry is traced to the fourth generation, and he was regarded as the great-great grandson of King Hezekiah. One senses an aristocracy about him that adds credence to his royal descent. Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of King Josiah, and it is likely that he, Jeremiah, and possibly Habakkuk and Nahum supported the Deuteronomic reform of the young King Josiah. He shows familiarity with court circles and current political issues. His book contains only three chapters and, like the other prophets, he represented God before man. Zephaniah wanted to give people a greater knowledge of God and to help them relate that knowledge to the past, present, and future.

Zephaniah issued a stern denunciation to Judah (vv. 1-3). His knowledge enabled him to speak effectively on the sins of God's people. His stern words relating to these sins and his impassioned cries for repentance have given him the name of "Puritan." His book is made up largely of dark pictures but it also offers the conviction that there is always hope for those who truly trust Jehovah. It issues a harsh proclamation pronouncing both the certainty and the thoroughness of Yahweh's judgment. It emphasizes that even nature would experience the wrath of Yahweh, as he will remove everything. Those persons who make true allegiance to Yahweh difficult or impossible will be cut off. Zephaniah warned against specific practices (relating to idolatry) which would precipitate Jehovah's judgment.

Judgment pronounced against leaders and people (vv. 7-13). The attention turns more directly now to false leaders and the day of judgment. The sacrifice is a holy occasion and the sacrificial lamb is Judah. Zephaniah depicted Yahweh patrolling the streets of Jerusalem with lamps. The penetrating scrutiny of Yahweh would find iniquity in every corner. He would discover injustice everywhere. He compared the people to wine, long undisturbed, thick and unresponsive, with only the dregs remaining. The cheating and injustice done to others inevitably build houses which will have their reckoning. These sins plant vineyards which fall short of productivity.

A possibility of escaping God's wrath (2:1-3). The wicked nation is called to a last opportunity for repentance, in the hope that Yahweh's fierce anger will not be visited upon her. The prophet urges the meek of the land to seek the Lord since meekness connotes an attitude of faithful obedience toward God. To be hidden conveys an image of protection and indicates the prophet's continual hope in Yahweh's receptiveness to man's repentance. "Sin is a reproach to any people" and America needs to hear again the message of God through this prophet, that each of us may realize our need of God and his righteousness.

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.



Bible Book

Elisha's concern for needs



By David Raddin
2 Kings 4:1-6:7

Drugs, depression, "self-help," and countless other parts of our society tell us that persons are desperate for someone or something to meet their needs. We as the church are given by Jesus the responsibility to do precisely that. Elisha was a living example of one whose life was wrapped up in concern for human needs.

The Shunammite's son dies (4:18-20). When Elisha was in their area, a well-to-do Shunammite woman and her husband would invite the prophet into their home to eat and stay in a room they built for him. Elisha wanted to do something in return and promised the old woman that she would have a son.

The son was born, grew, and one day went to the fields with his father. The child began to complain of severe pains in his head. The father told his servant to take the boy to his mother. His mother held her son in her lap until he died.

Elisha raises the Shunammite's son (4:32-35). Though the day was not a holy day such as the new moon or the Sabbath when holy men would be sought, the woman went and found Elisha. He sent his servant to touch her son with his staff. Elisha arrived and found the boy's mother, who had gone with his servant, but the touch of the prophet's staff had left the boy unchanged. Elisha closed himself in the room with the boy, prayed, and through the power of God, the boy lived again.

Lessons from Elisha's experience with the Shunammite woman. Faith is tested in difficult times. Elisha showed his faith and his concern for people in his immediate response to the need in the Shunammite family. The mother showed her faith in turning to the man of God. We are reminded that faith in God changes life through the power of prayer.

Healing Naaman the Syrian leader (5:1-3, 13-15a). Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. This valiant, victorious soldier was losing the battle with life; he had leprosy. Naaman's wife had a servant who told her of a prophet in Israel who could cure her husband. Naaman told the king of Aram what the girl had said and he sent Naaman directly to the king of Israel.

The king of Israel read the letter from the king of Aram asking him to heal Naaman. Israel's king tore his clothes, the custom of the Jews when they heard or read that which they thought was blasphemous. "Am I God?" the king of Israel asked.

When Elisha heard what the king of Israel had done, he sent the king word to send Naaman to him that the king might know that there was a prophet in Israel. Naaman went to Elisha and the prophet instructed him to go wash himself seven times in the Jordan in order to be healed. Naaman went away angry that Elisha had not healed him on the spot. Naaman's servants convinced him that he should do the little thing Elisha had instructed, just as he would have done a great thing. Naaman did as he was told and was healed. Verse 15 gives Naaman's response: "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel."

Lessons from Elisha's experience with Naaman the leper. We must face the barriers between ourselves and others in communicating God's love and care. Barriers existed between the Israelite maid and Naaman and Naaman and Elisha. We can learn from the maid and from the prophet that cultural, physical, or any other barrier can be overcome by the power of God. You and I can face in the power of God the barriers that exist in our lives and between ourselves and others. We can celebrate as God in his own way and time brings those barriers down, even the seemingly impossible barriers of our lives.

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Summit.

Life and Work

Trusting God as David did



By Milton Burd
1 Samuel 17:4, 10-11, 37, 45-47, 50

God gave David an opportunity to serve him, and David responded by developing a high level of trust and confidence in God. This trust developed through some rather dramatic experiences, including the encounter with Goliath. This encounter is the focus of our lesson for this week.

Challenge of Goliath. The Philistines, archenemies of Israel, were flexing their muscles because they had a giant of a soldier named Goliath. He was from the descendants of the giants who settled in Gath. He was very intimidating because of his enormous stature and massive armor. This champion appeared to be an unbeatable foe. Who did Israel have to counter against such a foe?

Response of the Israelites (17:11). The response of Saul and his army was one of fear and dismay. They were scared to death! This verse bears similarities to Deut. 1:28 and the fear of the people of Israel when they heard the reports of the spies. They said that the people were bigger and taller and the cities were large and fortified. Where could they go? They could not run, hide, or find anyone to meet the challenge of Goliath. Israel had not learned from the past or the present to trust God in the threatening situations of life. God desires his people to trust him in all of life's experiences.

Basis of David's trust in God (17:37). David was sent by his father, Jesse, to the camp to deliver food to his brothers and their commander. David was criticized by his brother for moving through the crowd of soldiers inquiring about what would be done for the man who killed this Philistine. David was indignant that Goliath would taunt the armies of the living God. These comments were reported to Saul, and he sent for David. David volunteered to fight Goliath. He had enough trust in God to know that he would be delivered from the challenge of the Philistine.

Our faith grows stronger when we trust God in the threatening situations of life. Our experiences with God affirm that he has been with us in the past and he will be with us in the future crises of life. The hymn, "O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come," is a testimony to trust in God. Psalm 46:1 is also an assurance of God's presence in our lives. David had a strong sense of trust in God. He was confident that God would deliver him from this encounter with Goliath, too.

Result of David's trust in God (17:45-47, 50). David's confidence and trust in God came not only from the past experience of being delivered from the lion and bear, but he also had a strong awareness of who God was. He was the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel. The name of God was enough to empower David to conquer Goliath. There was no doubt in David's mind as to the outcome. It was already decided by God. God is always ready to provide places of service for those who trust in him. The result of David's trust in God was a triumph over Goliath. God used his servant David, armed with a sling and a stone, to bring down the mighty giant.

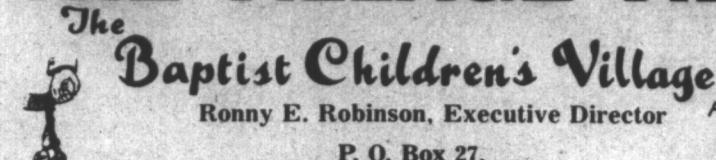
The Philistines were completely routed by the defeat of Goliath, and they fled. The opposite happened to the Israelites. They suddenly became confident with David's victory. They pursued the Philistines and gained a victory that would make Israel's God known to the pagan nations.

Thankfully, we do not have to do battle with a Goliath, but we are often faced with threatening situations in life. When these crises come, we need the same trust and confidence in God that David had. We can face these crises with the confidence that God is with us.

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.



THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

ACCREDITED

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(601) 922-2242



Village Observes Spiritual Emphasis Days

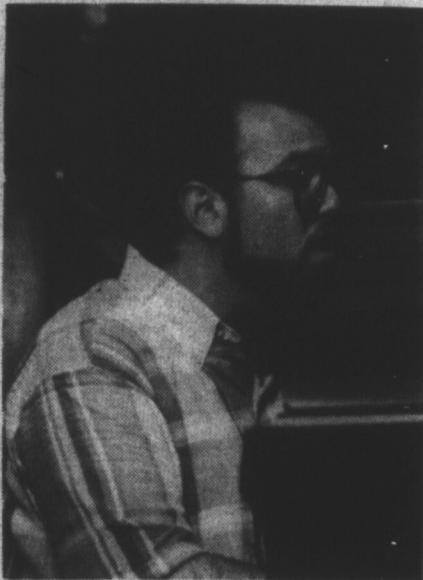
The Baptist Children's Village held its 1992 Spiritual Emphasis Services on our India Nunnery Campus June 8-10. Staff and young people from all campuses met together to worship and fellowship.

Kathy Jefcoat, minister to children at First Baptist Church, Jackson, arranged for the singles ministry team of First Baptist to lead our children in worship each evening.

Youth worship devotionals were led by Steve Lanier, director, Jackson Youth for Christ. Music for youth services was provided on Monday night by "His Workmanship" ensemble from Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, directed by John Langworthy; and on Tuesday night by the youth ministry team from First Baptist Church, Jackson; and on Wednesday night by "Agape" ensemble and "Solid Rock" youth choir from Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, directed by Lew King.

Dexter Truesdale, pastor, Flag Chapel Baptist Church, led devotionals for our staff.

There were 32 decisions made during Spiritual Emphasis. THANK YOU ALL for your part in ministering at the Baptist Children's Village. A special THANKS also goes to Frances Boyanton, director of our supply department, and to all the child care workers for helping to feed the extra mouths during this special time.



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**April 1, 1992 -
April 20, 1992**

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capsules

500,000 EVANGELICALS MARCH DURING EARTH SUMMIT: RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—More than 500,000 evangelical Christians marched in the second-largest public demonstration in Brazil's history during the U.N.-sponsored Earth Summit in June in Rio de Janeiro. Evangelicals marched through downtown Rio to express their theme, "Celebrating God with the Planet Earth." The believers from 39 denominations sang hymns and carried Bibles and signs with Christian slogans. The march ended in front of a government building with a program of hymns, Scripture reading, and preaching. Among the speakers was noted Brazilian Baptist evangelist Nilson Fanini. The march showed the strength of evangelicals in Brazil, said Gene Angus, a Southern Baptist missionary there. Evangelical ranks in Brazil, and throughout traditionally Roman Catholic Latin America, are growing rapidly. In Brazil alone more than half a million Roman Catholics are becoming evangelicals each year, according to news reports.

SAUDI ARABIA NO PICNIC FOR NON-MUSLIMS: PASADENA, Calif.—Saudi Arabia and Sudan were the Muslim countries most intolerant of other religions last year, according to the Zwemer Institute for Islamic Studies. Iran and Pakistan also ranked high on the intolerance list. The human rights group Middle East Watch also criticized Saudi Arabia's recent so-called reforms, saying the new laws do not ban discrimination on the basis of religion. The country's powerful religious police also turned their attention to seeking out and arresting or deporting members of secret Christian groups in addition to enforcing Islamic law among Muslims.

SAUDI KING SAYS MUSLIMS COULD BECOME "BIG FORCE": RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—Saudi King Fahd called June 12 for efforts to strengthen Islam worldwide. "We must affirm that as states and nations we have the... potential to become a big force in this world," the king said in a broadcast to 2 million Muslim pilgrims gathered in the country. Saudi Arabia is a major supporter of Islamic mission efforts worldwide and has joined other Muslim states in outreach to the United States, Europe, and the newly independent Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union. In related developments, the first Islamic institute in Europe is now training scholars and future directors of other such centers in Europe.

GORBACHEV HITS MARXISM'S ANTI-RELIGION STANCE: JERUSALEM—During a June visit to Israel, former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said he hoped all Jews would not leave the former Soviet Union. He also denounced Moscow's former anti-religious policy, reported United Press International. "Among its other flaws, Marxism, which held us captive for so long, took a simplistic approach, treating religious faith as self-delusion," he said. "But as soon as society was freed from the ideological shackles, thought had to be given to the role religion should play in social progress." Gorbachev visited the Wailing Wall June 18. He got a warm welcome at the holy site—the only remaining portion of the Second Temple in Jerusalem—as crowds of tourists, immigrants, and native Israelis pressed for a glimpse of him. Gorbachev reportedly impressed Israelis with his interest in Jewish culture during his first visit to the nation. He also visited the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem.

STATE BAPTIST PAPERS COULD FACE STEEP RATE INCREASE: WASHINGTON (ABP)—State Baptist newspapers could face a 50% increase in their postal rates if Congress fails to accept a proposal to delay the increase. The House Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government approved an appropriations measure June 10 that would provide only \$200 million of the \$482 million needed for the non-profit mail subsidy, known as "revenue foregone." But the bill, approved in a closed meeting, includes a temporary shield from a non-profit postal hike in 1993. Postal rates for non-profit mailers like Baptist state newspapers reflect only the cost of handling that class of mail. Revenue foregone reimburses the U.S. Postal Service for the overhead expenses. Edward Roybal, D-Calif., chairman of the subcommittee, proposed that the Postal Service, rather than non-profit mailers, pick up the \$282 million difference in the amount needed and the amount appropriated.

LOUISIANA APPROVES CASINO GAMBLING: BATON ROUGE, La. (ABP)—By bare minimum margins, the Louisiana legislature voted recently to establish a land-based casino in New Orleans, and by the end of the legislative session on June 22, state legislators had passed a constitutional amendment that would facilitate the spread of casinos throughout the state. The action providing for a casino in New Orleans represents the climactic step for a state that has seen legalized gambling proliferate in recent years. In the last two years, the legislature and voters have approved a lottery, riverboat gambling, and the legalization of video poker machines.

Spiritual hunger growing in Cuba

By Matthew Brady

FORT WORTH, TEXAS — The interrogator stood across the table from David Fite. Spread out before the young missionary were photographs of friends and fellow pastors in the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba.

"Look at all the people we have arrested," the Cuban interrogator told Fite. "We have destroyed the Baptist church."

On that day in April 1965, the church indeed appeared in danger of destruction. Fite, along with more than 50 Baptist pastors and laymen, had been arrested on charges of espionage. The group represented most of the leadership and more than half the pastors in the Cuban Baptist Convention.

Their time in prison would range from 18 months to 12 years. But Cuban dictator Fidel Castro had underestimated the difficulty of his task.

Fite, who now serves as director

of continuing education and off-campus programs at Southwestern Seminary, said no church failed to meet the Sunday after the arrests. Sunday School teachers and others took over running the churches.

"He (Castro) didn't expect that," Fite said.

Leoncio Veguilla was among the pastors imprisoned in 1965. Today he serves as general secretary of the 7,700-member Baptist Convention of Western Cuba and as a pastor and professor at the Baptist seminary in Havana.

Veguilla, who attended a week-long course in church history at Southwestern Seminary May 11-15, spoke enthusiastically of Baptist work in Cuba.

"They are allowing us to do everything we can in our churches, in the buildings, not outside," he said. "But we have now more opportunity than some years ago. Now it's better."

While Castro has never closed the churches, Veguilla said that for some time people were afraid to go to church.

"But now the people are in very deep need of something spiritual, because the material has been failing," he said. "Now they ask us how to be saved, how they can have happiness. They believe that the happiest people in the country are the Christians."

Veguilla became a follower of Christ at the age of 13 through the work of Fite's in-laws, Southern Baptist missionaries Herbert and Marjorie Caudill. In his 40 years of service he has held almost every post in the convention. He and his wife of 37 years, Dora, have three children.

Fite said Cuba's communist government has grown to respect Christians "because they are the only people they can trust. If Christians are asked to do a job, they can be sure it will be done right," he said.

"It's easier now that the government has come to respect them, but it's harder because there's nothing in the country. The economic situation in Cuba is very difficult," he said.

But despite growing respect for Christians, Fite said the churches continue to be watched. At any church meeting someone from the government might be present to see if anything is said against Castro's regime.

That looming threat doesn't concern the churches because they "just preach of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ," he said. "They haven't gotten into making political statements either for or against the government."

Veguilla said Cuban Christians are not waiting on changes in the government and the economy.

"That is not our main hope," he said. "Every time a new government comes, it is a human government. Our hope is in the heavens. The best thing we are giving to our country is Christ."

Brady is PR writer, Southwestern Seminary.

My greatest thrill

By Curtis Askew

Every golfer's dream is a hole-in-one. On Aug. 4, 1969 my tee shot dropped into the eighth hole from 110 yards at Nojiri Golf Course in the Japan Alps. Short but tough, this green is partly covered by a tree on the left, and a bottomless pit falls off to the right. A ridge crosses the fairway, leaving only the flag visible from the tee. A groundsman shouted to me that my shot had dropped. My joy was boundless! My shout of triumph echoed throughout the Alps. But alas, I took a double bogey on the ninth hole, and I suddenly fell into a shanking syndrome, causing me to contribute many balls to that pit to the right of "my hole." What a short-lived thrill it proved to be!

I experienced another thrill 30 years earlier—one that has not parted from me. At 18, I was like many teenagers. I pretended to be "cool," but was not really sure of anything. I had attended church all my life, but I was not even sure God existed. I was drifting with no purpose.

One day a Bible verse came to my attention: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." I thought, "Maybe that is the reason I have not 'seen' God! My heart is not pure."

I was fairly clean morally, and was known in my town as a "good boy." Only I knew how my heart often harbored greed, lust, envy, and at times, hatred. I knew such a heart was not pure. But how could I purify it? I tried, but to no avail.

One day my grandfather loaned me a book: *The All Sufficiency of Christ*. It clearly taught that no one can purify his own heart, nor atone for his own sins. Jesus Christ came into the world to be our Savior.

I recognized then that I was indeed a sinner, and in dire need of forgiveness and cleansing. By trying to save myself, to be worthy, I was really rejecting Christ, and insulting him with my unbelief. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved, through faith; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." I had been trying to be my own savior through my own merit and works. If I had been successful, I would have had grounds for boasting. But Christ came to do for me what I could never do for myself.

Laying the book aside, I fell to my knees and prayed. I asked God to forgive my unbelief and arrogance. I asked God to forgive all my sins, and cleanse my heart. I yielded myself to Christ, whom I felt was very near me.

Then I truly "saw God." Not with my physical eyes, but from my heart I recognized his reality and presence. I was assured of his forgiveness, cleansing, and love! I knew he was very real, and did dwell within my heart. God was no longer a fearful creature, bent on punishing me, but a loving Father. It was a greater thrill than any golf shot, or any personal accomplishment. Moreover, it was not only lasting, but a growing experience.

Not every golfer sinks a hole-in-one. Even Lee Trevino told me one day that so far he had never had one. Later I read that he did. But to sink a tee shot into a tiny hole from a great distance requires more than skill. It takes a lot of luck, too.

To experience Christ's salvation requires no skill. It requires no merit. It does not even involve luck. No one is worthy! Salvation is God's gift to the unworthy. Not even Peter could claim that he deserved salvation. But, whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom. 10:13).

Have you ever doubted the reality of God? You are not alone. All have had doubts. Only from a heart purified by God's Spirit can anyone experience the assurance of the presence of the living God. Jesus came into the world, and died on a cross to atone for our sins. I am so glad I was included. I am glad that you were, too!

Askew is a retired missionary to Japan.

005-DTM
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